

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8698

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY BDUAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USNATO 599

AMCONSUL POZNAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 2242

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, XH, PL

SUBJECT: WARSAW PACT PCC MEETING: FURTHER INTERPRETATIONS

REF: WARSAW 2184

1. SUMMARY: ADDITIONAL PRESS COMMENTARY AND INFORMATION FROM
EMBASSY CONTACTS OVER THE WEEKEND FURTHER INDICATE THE EMPHASIS
BEING PLACED ON VARIOUS ISSUES ADDRESSED AT THE WARSAW PACT
POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE (PCC) SESSION LAST WEEK. CSCE AND EUROPEAN
DETENTE ARE PARTICULARLY STRESSED, WITH MBFR AND "MILITARY DETENTE"
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TAKING A BACK SEAT TO THREE PRIMARY AIMS. THE PROMINENT AND

INSTIGATING ROLE OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE DETENTE MOVEMENT AND CLOSE IDENTIFICATION OF THE BLOC WITH THIRD WORLD INTERESTS IS ALSO EMPHASIZED. END SUMMARY.

2. A FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN TRYBUNA LUDU APRIL 21 OFFERS THE FIRST AUTHORITATIVE POLISH COMMENTARY ON THE PCC MEETING AND THE DOCUMENTS IT SPAWNED. EMPHASIZING THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY OF THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ITS APPEAL FOR SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF CSCE, THE EDITORIAL NOTES THAT FOR THE "FIRST TIME" IN HISTORY A "GREAT CHARTER OF EUROPEAN PEACE" IS EMERGING, WHICH IS UNIQUE BECAUSE IT "MUST" FORMULATE PRINCIPLES AND CONDITIONS OF SECURITY AND DETENTE AND MUST ALSO CONSTITUTE A "FOUNDATION" ON WHICH TO BASE THE WHOLE RANGE OF CONTACTS AMONG EUROPEAN NATIONS. THE EDITORIAL ONLY LIGHTLY TOUCHES MBFR, REITERATING THAT "POLITICAL DETENTE MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED BY MILITARY DETENTE" AND SUGGESTING AGAIN THAT SUCCESS IN THE VIENNA TALKS ON CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AFFECTING "OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE".

3. AN IDEOLOGICAL PASSAGE IN THE EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTS THE "LEADING" ROLE OF THE SOCIALIST COMMUNITY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR DETENTE. IT FURTHER ATTACKS "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE WEST FOR TRYING TO SOLVE THEIR OWN DIFFICULTIES THROUGH AN APPEAL TO "COLD-WAR" METHODS AND THE CONSCIOUS SPREADING OF THE NOTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC AND THE RESULTANT NEED TO DEAL FROM A "POSITION OF STRENGTH", A NOTION WHICH WOULD FORCE "WEAKER ATLANTIC PARTNERS" TO SUBORDINATE THEIR INTERESTS TO POLICIES OPPOSED TO DETENTE. THE EDITORIAL REPEATS IN LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE COMMUNIQUE THE DISCUSSION ABOUT DISSOLUTION OF THE WP, OR ITS MILITARY STRUCTURE, UNDER ARTICLE 11 IF NATO WOULD DO THE SAME. IT AGAIN CAUTIONS, HOWEVER, THAT THE WP WILL NOT FAIL TO STRENGTHEN ITS OWN DEFENSE AGAINST "ENEMIES OF PEACE".

4. ADDRESSING POLAND'S OWN CONTRIBUTION AND GAINS FROM THE WP AND FROM THE SOVIET ALLIANCE, THE EDITORIAL CITES THE PACT AS AN "OBSTACLE" TO THE "RAPACIOUS DREAMS OF THE PREVIOUS BONN GOVERNMENT" AND AS A SUPPORT TO WARSAW IN ITS NORMALIZATION TALKS WITH BONN.

5. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS HERE HAVE TOLD US THAT THE WP COMMUNIQUE IS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THE WEST AND THAT ITS GOAL IS CONFIDENTIAL

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RENEWED SUPPORT FOR CSCE, WHICH, THEY ARGUED, HAS BEEN ECLIPSED BY SALT AND MBFR. THE COMMUNIQUE CONTAINS NOTHING NEW, THEY CLAIMED, BUT UPDATES PAST SOVIET EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE. ADDITIONALLY, THEY TOOK EXCEPTION TO WESTERN NEWS BROADCASTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY MISCONSTRUED THE DISCUSSION ON DISBANDING THE NATO AND WP ALLIANCES, SUGGESTING IN PARTICULAR THAT THE WP WOULD UPGRADE ITS ARMAMENTS UNLESS THERE IS AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT. RATHER, THEY MAINTAINED, THE COMMUNIQUE SIMPLY SAID THAT THE

PACT WOULD CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND INCREASE POLITICAL COOPERATION UNLESS AGREEMENT IS REACHED.

6. A JOURNALIST WITH GOOD CONNECTIONS HAS TOLD US THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF CERTAIN STATES (HE SPECIFIED ROMANIA AND BULGARIA) OPTING OUT OF THE WP UNDER THE RENEWAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 11 AND A "TURBULENT" REVIEW OF CEMA POLICY IN THE LIGHT OF POMPIDOU'S DEATH AND EEC DISARRAY WERE THE TWO MAIN STREAMS OF DISCUSSIONS DURING THE ASSEMBLY. THESE PROBLEMS, HE ADDED, WERE TREATED AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF "SERIOUS CONCERN" ABOUT "PRESIDENT NIXON'S PROBLEMS" AND THE REAL FUTURE OF DETENTE. THE QUESTION OF EXTENDING THE PACT WAS COMPLICATED BY CONCERN FOR DETENTE, HE SAID, SINCE BREZHNEV MUST CONTAIN SOME "RESTIVE PACT MEMBERS, FIRST ROMANIA AND NOW BULGARIA", WHILE AT THE SAME TIME "RECOGNIZING THE CONTRADICTION OF DETENTE WHICH EXTENSION OF THE PACT WOULD REPRESENT". THE "GREAT RISK" BREZHNEV'S DETENTE POLICY HAS POSED FOR HIM WITHIN THE SOVIET POLITBURO, TOGETHER WITH THE "CONFUSION IN EUROPE" AND "YOUR PRESIDENT'S PROBLEMS", HAVE NOW MADE HIS SITUATION "VERY DANGEROUS AS HIS OPPONENTS FEEL STRENGTHENED AND NERVOUS".

7. ASIDE FROM CONCERN OVER ROMANIA'S OPTING OUT, THE REALLY DIVISIVE FEATURE OF THE MEETINGS, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, WAS THE Q
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